

First Extraordinary Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY REPRESENTATIVE ARMES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the United States Forest Service to allow the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set hunting seasons and regulations within the Kisatchie National Forest.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Constitution, in Article IX, Section 1, requires the protection, conservation, and replenishment of the natural resources of the state and in Article IX, Section 7, provides that ". . . control and supervision of the wildlife of the state. . ." is vested in the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission; and

WHEREAS, both provisions of the constitution allow for statutory implementation of the details of these broad-based responsibilities and the statutes provide for the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set hunting season dates, take limits, size restrictions, and other parameters on taking of the state's wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, the only place in the state where the commission's authority to set hunting seasons and restrictions on hunting activities is not consistently applicable is in the Kisatchie National Forest, which is one of the largest tracts of land where there can be general hunting by the public without the necessity of land ownership or leasing; and

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service is not an agency tasked with management of wildlife or regulation of hunting activities so the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is a more appropriate agency to be setting hunting policy; and

WHEREAS, consistency of hunting policy across state and federal lands would enable more consistent enforcement of hunting laws and would reduce the confusion and possible conflicts among hunters and would likely reduce hunting accidents across the board.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the United States Forest Service to allow the Louisiana Wildlife and

Fisheries Commission to set hunting seasons and regulations within the Kisatchie National Forest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the United States Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the United States Forest Service.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE